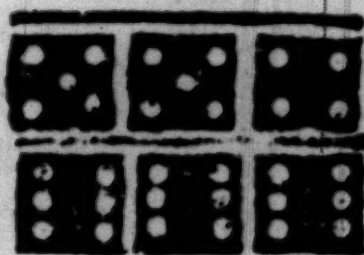
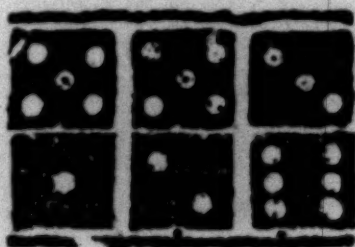


2

# **C**A manifest de-

tection of the moſte vile and deteſtable  
uſe of Diceplay, and other practiſes lyke  
the ſame, a Myſtrour very neceſſary for  
all younge Gentilmen & others ſoden-  
ly enabled by worldly abuſe,  
to loke in. And ſet forth  
for their behouſe.



## **C**Democritus.

Si ie ris vous eſtes plus folz que ne ries  
de me veoir rire  
De vous et de voz actes ſont plus que mon  
rire plut dire  
Tant il y a a vous redire et aux plus ſages  
de vous tous.  
Qui eſt pleine fol qui ne rit de vous.

**C**Fortune vient a point.

**G**entle Reader, when you shall reade this booke, deuised as a meane too shewe and set foozth such naughty practises as hathe bene, and bee peradventure yet vled in houses of Decepaye, thinke it not too bee witten in dispraise of offence of the honest, but. for. that vnder coler and cloke of friendshippe many younge Gentlemen be drawn to their vndoing. And to the intent that such as haue not yit fedde of that sower sweete or hungrie bayte, (wherewith they at length beware be choked,) shall lerne, not only to amoyde the danger thereof by knowynge their mischeuous and moste subtyll practise, in gettinge a pray too spoyle the same: But shall also by meane thereof see (as it were in a glasse,) the myserable endes that a sorte of handsome Gentlemen hath by this crafty and subtyll deuyse come too, impu-tyng, (for want of knowledge,) their cause of misery too yll fortune. Thus hauing in fewe woordes shewed the effect of that which the booke shall declare with some moze circumstance, I bid you fare well.

### **The naines of Dyce.**

- A** bale of barde synke deuris  
**A** bale of flatte synke deuris  
**A** bale of flatte sixe eadis  
**A** bale of barde syre eadis  
**A** bale of barde cater trees  
**A** bale of flat cater trees  
**A** bale of fullans of the best making  
**A** bale of light grauers  
**A** bale of Langretes contrary to the vantage  
**A** bale of Gordes with as many hygh men as lowe men  
 for passage  
**A** bale of deintes  
**A** bale of long dyce for euen and odde  
**A** bale of dyttelles  
**A** bale of direct contraries.



Interloquutars      K. and. Q.  
K. speaketh.



Appely as I romyd me in the  
churche of Paules nowe. xx.  
dayes a goo, lookynge for cer-  
tayne my companions, that  
hither might haue staled a meting, ther  
walked vp & downe by me in the body of  
the Church a gentilman, fayne dressed in  
Silkes, golde, & Jewels, with iii. or iiij.  
seruaunts in gaye lyueryes, all brodered  
with sundry colours attending vpon him  
I aduisd him wel as one that plesed me  
much, for his proper personage and more  
for the wearing of his gere, and he agein  
at eche check made in our walking caste  
earnest lokes vpon me, not such as by his  
holowe frowninges, and percyng aspect  
myght pretend anye malpce or disdai-  
ne: but rather shoulde sygnifye by hys  
cherefull countenanne that hee noted in  
me somthinge that lyked him well, and  
coude be content to take some occasion,  
to imbrace myne acquaintance.

A. ii

Anone

Anone whyles I deuised with my selfe  
what means I might make too vnder-  
stand his behauor, & what sort he was of  
for mans nature (as ye know) is in those  
thinges curious, specially in such as pro-  
fesse courting, he humbled him selfe farre  
beneth my expectation, & began to speke  
fyrst after this maner. Sir it seemeth to  
me that we haue both one errand hither  
for I haue marked you well nowe more  
then halfe an houre, stalking vp & down  
alone without any cōpant sometime with  
such heauy and vncheerful countenaūce  
as if ye had some hammers workinge in  
your head, and that breach of company  
had moued your patience, and I for my  
part, what face soeuer I set on the mat-  
ter, am not all in quiet: for had all promi-  
ses bene kept, I wuld oz this houre haue  
sene a good pece of money told here vp  
on the fonte. And as many indentures  
obligations & other writings sealed as  
cost me twyse. xl. s. for the drawing & cu-  
sable, but as to me: let thē that be a cold  
blow



4  
blow y coles, for I am already on y iure  
syde and if I misse of my hold this way,  
I doubt not to pynche them as nere by  
an other wyfte, though in deede I must  
cōfesse, y unkindnes & breache of promys  
is so much against my nature y nothing  
can offend me more. And you on y other  
side, if your greefe & tarrying be the same  
that I take it, ye cannot do better, then  
to make little of the matter. for ye seeme  
to be a man y wadeth not so vnadvised-  
ly in y deepe but that alwaies ye bee sure  
of an anker holde: and therfore let vs by  
myne aduise forget such idell grefes and  
whyles noone tyme draweth on, talke of  
other matters y may quickē our sprits to  
make a mery dinner. Perchaunce this oc-  
castō may confirm a ioyful acquaintance  
betwene vs. Str (quod I) as touchinge  
y cause of my long abiding here, it is not  
very great, neither is it tied to any such  
thyste as yee speake of, but lacke of com-  
pany will sone lead a man into a broton  
studdy. Wel then (quod he) if your head  
A. iiii, be

be fraught w<sup>th</sup> no heuier burden it is an  
easie matter to lighten your iode, for a lyt-  
tle greef is sone forgotten. But I praye  
you s<sup>r</sup>, long ye not to the court, me thin-  
kes I haue seene you er now and cannot  
cal it home where it shuld be. *Ans.* A good  
workeman by saint Mary: nowe doo I  
easily foresee wythout anye instruction  
further wherto this matter tēdeth: but  
yet tell what further talke had yee. *R.* I  
tolde him I was yet but a rawe Cour-  
tier, as one y<sup>e</sup> came from schole not many  
monethes afoze, and was now become  
seruant to my Lord Chaunceler of Eng-  
land, partly to see experience of things,  
the better to gouerne my selfe here after,  
& cheefly too haue a staffe to leane vntoo  
to defend mine own. And he againe com-  
mendid me much therin, declaring, how  
diuarse notable persons, rashely by igno-  
rance misguiding theselues, were sodayn-  
ly shaken a sunder, and fallen on y<sup>e</sup> rockes  
of extreme penury. And how some other  
euen goodly wittes circumspectly wor-  
kyng



king in all theire doinges, haue by want  
 of such a leaning stock, bin ouerthrowen  
 with tirans power. For which cause (qd  
 he) like as I cannot but praise your wa-  
 ry working in this your first courting:  
 so for my Lorde your masters sake, you  
 shall not lacke the best that I may do for  
 you. For albeit y I am much beholding  
 to all the Lords of the counsell (as who  
 they stick not at al times to take to their  
 boord, and vse sometime for a companion  
 at play) yet is he my singuler good Lord  
 aboue all the rest, & if I shall confesse the  
 truth, a great part of my liuing hath ri-  
 sen by his frendly preferment, & though  
 I say it my self, I am to olde a courtier,  
 and haue seene to much to bear nothing  
 away, and in case our acquaintaunce  
 hold, & by dayly company gather deepe  
 roote: I shall now and then shew you a  
 lesson worth the learning, and to thend  
 hereafter each of vs may bee the bolder  
 of the other, I pray you (if ye bee not o-  
 therwise be spoken) take a capd with me  
 A.iii. at

at dinner . Though your fare bee but  
homely , and skante, yet a cuppe of good  
wine I ca promise you, & al other lackes  
shalbe supplied with a friendly welcom.  
I thank you sir (qd I) ye offer me more  
gentlenes then I can deserue, but sins I  
haue taried all this while, I will abyde  
the laste houre, too proue howe well my  
companions wyl holde theyr appoynt-  
ment , and for that cause I will forbear  
too trouble you till an other tyme , nay  
not so (quod he) yet had I rather spende  
xx. s. then that my Lorde your Mayster  
should knowe but that the worst groine  
of his stable is as dere to me as any kins-  
man I haue, and therefore lare all excu-  
sis aside, and shape your selfe to kepe mee  
companie for one dinner , whyle youre  
man and myne shall walk here together  
till. xii. of the clocke, and yf your friends  
happen too come hither hce shall bring  
them home to vs. I loue too see Gentyll  
men swaime, and cleaue too gyther lyke  
Burg. M. Howe then, went ye home too  
gethere



gether: R. What els, woulde ye haue me  
fozlake so gētle a friend, & so necessary ac-  
quayntaunce. M. So to, say on. Lo how  
gentle lambs are ledde to the slaughter  
in any folde, howe sone rechelesse youthe  
falleth in snare of crafty Dealinge,

R. sone after we cam home to his house:  
the table was fayre spred with Dyaper  
clothes, the Cupboorde garnished wyth  
much goodly plate, and laste of all came  
foorth the gentyll woman hys wyfe clo-  
thed in Silkes and embrodred workes,  
the attyre of her head brodred wyth gold  
and Pearle, a Cacknet about her necke  
agreable thereto, wyth a flower of Di-  
amondes pendente thereat, and in anye  
faire ringes on her finger. Welle (qd. he)  
bid this gentleman welcome, and wyth  
that she courteously kyssed me and after  
moued communication of my name, my  
naturall country, what tyme my father  
Dyed, and whether I were Marryed yet  
or not, alwaies powdring our talk with  
suche pretye deuyses, that I sawe not a  
woman

woman in al my life, whole fashions and  
entertainment I liked better.

The good man in the meane season had  
bin in the Kitchin, and sodeynly retour-  
nyng and breakyng our talke, somwhat  
sharply blamed his wife that the dyner  
was no further forwarde, and whyles she  
withdrew hir from vs, by like to put all  
thinges in a good readines, come on (quod  
he) you shal go see my house the while, it  
is not lyke your large cuntry houses,  
roumes ye wote in London be straight,  
but yet the furnytur of them is costly  
enough, and victayles bee heere at such  
hygh pryses, that much money is soone  
consumed, specially with the that main-  
taine an ydell household, neuertheles as-  
sure your selfe, that no man is welcom-  
mer than you to such cheere as ye fynde.  
And consequently bringing me through  
diuers wel trimmed chambers, y worst  
of them appareled with verdures, some  
with rich cloth of Arras, all with bedes,  
Chayres, and Cushions of Silke, and  
Gold,



**G**old, of sundry colours suitably wrought.  
No heere quod hee a poore mannes lod-  
ginge, which if ye thinke it may do you  
any pleasure (for y<sup>e</sup> Innes of London be  
the worst of Engiand) take your choyce  
and hartely welcome, reseruing but one  
for my Lord my wyfes Costn, whome I  
dare not disapoint least happely he shuld  
lowre and make the house to hot for vs.  
I gaue him thanks as meete it was I  
should, neither yet refusing his gentil of-  
fer, for in deed mine owne lodging is some-  
what lothesome, and pestered with com-  
pany: nor pit inbracing it, bycause hy-  
therto I had not by any meanes, deser-  
ued so great a pleasure.

So downe we came againe into the  
parlour, and found there dyuerse gentil-  
men, all straungers to me, & what should  
I say more, but to dinner we went.

¶ Let me here the what matters were  
moued at dinner time, and how ye passed  
the after none, tyll the company brake  
vp, and sundred themselves.

R. That

**R,** That can I readily tell you, I haue not yet forgotten it sins, Don it was so late, as touchinge our fare, though pertrych, and quaple, were no daintyes, and wories of sundry grapes flowed abundantly, yit spare I to speake thereof, because ye haue demaunded a contrary question. So soone as wee had well viteled our selues, I wot not how, but easely it came to pas that we talked of newes, namely of Bullin, how hardly it was won, what pollicy then was practised too get it, and what case the Souldiers had in the seedge of it, in so much that the least progresse the King maketh into the inlend partes of the Realme, Dislodgeth mo of his trayne, and leaueth them too theyr owne prouision, with lesse relese of byttels, then had the worst, vnwaged auenturer ther.

From this the goodman lead vs to talk of home pleasures, enlarginge the brauties of peace, & Londō pastimes, & made so ioly a discourse therof f to my indgement



ment he seemed skilfull in al thinges. My  
 thinks(qd he) such simple fare as this  
 taken in peace, without feare & daunger  
 of gonnot, is better then a princes pur-  
 uelance in warre, where eache morsel hee  
 eateth shall bring w<sup>th</sup> it a present feare of  
 sodein mischaunce or vpolent hostilitie:  
 & though that in the open campe none  
 myght haue more familiar accesse to the  
 nobilitie then here at home, yet for my  
 part (I thanke God) I haue no cause to  
 complaine, eyther bycause of their gentle-  
 nes, no vther kepes the doze betweene me  
 and them when I come to visit the, or y<sup>e</sup>  
 y<sup>e</sup> greatest princes refuse not somtymes to  
 hallow my pore table & house with their  
 person. Which (be it, spokē wout booke or  
 imbraiding) doth somtyme cost me .xx. li.  
 a day. I am sure that some of this com-  
 pany doo remember what a braue cōpa-  
 ny of Lords supt with me the last tēn,  
 and I thinke how yee haue heard, howe  
 some of them gat an. C. li. or. li. by their  
 comming, with this and that lyke talke  
 consu

consumed was out dinner, and after the  
table was remoued, in came one of the  
wayters with a fayze syluer boule full of  
Dyce and Cardes, now mapsters (quod  
the goodman) who is so disposed, sai to:  
here is my. xx. li. win it & weare it. Then  
eache man chole his game, some kepte  
the goodman company at the hafard,  
some matched theselues at a new game  
called Primero.

**Q.** And what did you the whyle?

**R.** They egged me to haue made one at  
Dice, and tolde me it was a shame for a  
gentleman not to kepe gentlemen com-  
pany for his xx. or xl. crownes neuerthe-  
lesse bycause I alledged ygnorance, the  
gentilwoman sayd I should not sit ydel  
al the rest being occupied, and so we ii. fel  
to saunt fiue games a Crowne. **Q.** And  
how spedde you in the end? **R.** In good  
fayth, I passed not for the losse of. xx. or  
xl. s, for acquayntance, and so muche I  
thinke it cost me, and then I left of, ma-  
rie



rie the Diceplayers stacke well by it and  
made very fresh play, saving one or two  
that were cleane shruen, & had no more  
money to lose. In the end when I shuld  
take my leave to depart, I could not by  
any meanes be suffered so to breake com-  
pany, onlesse I would deliuer the gentill  
woman a Ring, for a gage of my return  
to supper, & so I did, and to tel you al in  
few words, I haue haunted none other  
since I got that acquaintance, my meat  
and drinke and lodging is every way so  
delicate, that I make no hast to chaunge  
it. Q. And what pay you, nothing for it?  
haue ye not an ordinary charge for your  
meales? R. None at all, but this device  
wee haue, that every Player at the first  
hand he draweth, payeth a Crowne to  
the box, by way of a releef towards the  
house charges.

Q. Ye may see well of that price at the  
starke staring stewes.

R. In good fayth and me thinketh it an  
easy burden, for him þ will put his cl. in  
aduē.

aduenture to pay the tribute of a crowne,  
and fare well for it, whose chaunce is to  
lose a. C. crownes or. ii. wold neuer haue  
spared one to make a newe stocke worth  
al. And whose hap is to wine, were a ve  
ry churle to be a nigarde of so lytle,

M. Is every man a player there or doo  
some go scotfree? R. Who so listeth not to  
put unche in hazard plaiceth at num  
chafice for his crowne with some one or  
other. So some goeth free & some be at  
double chardge, for alwayes we haue res  
pecte that the house bee releued, and it  
standeth so muche the more with good  
reason, because that besydes the greate  
charges of bittels, and great attendance  
of the seruants, and great spoyl of nape  
ry and household stuff the good man also  
loseth his. xx. or. xl li. to kepe vs compa  
ny. M. And what do you the whyples? I  
am sure ye be not yet so cunuinge as too  
keepe such woorkemen company. R. And  
why not I pray you is it so hard a thing  
to tel. xx. or to remember, ii. or. iii. chann  
ces



tes: but yet in dede I play litell my selfe,  
onlesse it be at the Cardes, oherwyle I  
am the goodmans half for the most part,  
and torne both our luckes together.

Q. How sped ye ther for the most part?  
R. Not alwaies so wel as I wuld wish  
I will bee playne with you as with my  
frende, it hath coste me. xl. l. within this  
seayght. But I vouchsafe my losse the  
better, I had such farze play for it, and  
who would not bazarde. xx. pounde a-  
monge suche quyet company, where no  
man grues a foule woorde, at one good  
hande, a man maye chaunce as I haue  
often seene to make his fourty pounde a  
hundzed. And I haue seene again a man  
beginne to play with v. c. marke landes  
and once yet er the yere wēt about wold  
haue old land if he had had it. Q. Per-  
chaunce so to. R. But his lucke was too  
badde, the lyke falleth scarcely once in a  
hundzed yeres Q. That is but one doc-  
tors opinion. I see it beetyde euery day,  
though not in this so lardge a propor-

B. l.

cion

cion and bicause Ife you so raio in these  
things, that ye accounte that for moſte  
vnfained frendſhippe wher moſt Deceiſe  
is ment, and bring alredy giuen to play,  
may in ſewe dayes come further behind  
then al your trauaile of your latter peres  
can ouer take agayne . I can neyther  
forbeare thee for the ſeale I beare vntoo  
you, or the hatred I beare too the occu-  
pacion too make you vnderſtande ſome  
partes of the ſlepyhtes and ſalſhoddes  
that are commonly praſiſed at Dice and  
Cardes. Opening and ouerturning the  
things, not ſo that I would learne you  
to put the ſame in vſe, but opē theyr wic-  
ked ſnares. R. I thank you for your gen-  
tly offer, I would bee glad to know the  
worſt, leaſt happely I ſould fall in ſuch  
craftye company, but pouder at my lod-  
ginge comineth none but men of wooz,  
ſurpe, ſome mounted vpon mules ſalte  
trapped, ſome vppon ſpne hackeneyes  
with ſoote clothes, all ſuch as I dare  
ſaye would not praſtyſe a poynſe of le-  
gget



gverdympneyne for an hundred pound. **M.**  
Well, as to that, there lay a strawe tyll  
anone, that the matter lede vs to speake  
more of it. And in the meane season, let  
this be sufficient. That so sone as ye be-  
gonne your Decbaration of the firste ac-  
quayntaunce in Doules, I felte afore  
hande the hookes were layed too pyche  
your purse wpth all.

**R.** mayste I that, I would from hence-  
forth stand in dout of myne owne hande,  
the matter hath such appearaunce of ho-  
nestie.

**M.** Well harken to me a whyle. There  
is no man I am sure that hath expery-  
ence of the world, and by reading of hys-  
tozies conferreth our time to the daies of  
our elders, but wylle easely graunte that  
as tyne hath growen and gathered in-  
crease by running, so witte first planted  
in a seato, hath in tyne taken so many  
rootes, that in every corner ye may finde  
newe bzaunches budding and issewinge  
fro the same. For prose wherof to speake

**B.ii.**

**of**

of one thing amonge many that at this  
tyne may serue our purpose. Although  
the greke and latin histories be full of no-  
table examples of good princes, that vt-  
terly exiled Dicinge, out of their seignor-  
ies & cuntries, or at the least held the as  
infamed persons. yit synde I not that in  
those our forefathers daies, any the like  
slyght and crafty Deceit was practised in  
play, as now is common in euery corner.  
Yea and he namely Hodge setter whose  
surname witnesseth what opinion men  
had of him, though xl. yeres agoe was  
thought pereles in crafty playe, and had  
as they say neyther mate nor felowe, yet  
nowe towards his death was so farre  
behind some yonger men in that know-  
ledge, that I my selfe haue known mo  
then. xx that could make him a foole: and  
cannot suffre him to haue the name of a  
workeman in that facultie.

And it is not yet. xx. yeres agoe sing al  
that sought their liuing that waye, as  
then were few in number, scarcely so ma-  
ny



ny as were able too maintayne a good  
 fray so were they much of Hodge letters  
 estate, the next dooze too a begger, nowe  
 such is the misery of our tyme, or such is  
 the licentious outrage of idel misgouer-  
 ned persones, that of only Dycerle a man  
 myght haue halfe an army, the greatest  
 number so garly bee seene, and so full of  
 money that they bawd not to insinuat the  
 selues intoo the company of the hiest, &  
 loke for a good hour to creepe into a ge-  
 tlemans roome of the pryue chamber.

And heere of you may right well assure  
 your self that if their cost were not exce-  
 ding great, it were not possible by the on-  
 ly helpe thereof, to leade so sumptuous a  
 lyfe as they do alwaies, Wynnynge lyke  
 blasynge starres in their apparell.

By nyght, tauerning with Trumpetes,  
 by day spoiling Gentlemen of their inhe-  
 ritaunce, and to speake all at once, lyke  
 as all good and lyberall scences had a  
 rude beginninge, and by the industrie  
 of good men, beeinge augmented by ly-

B.iii,

tle

tell and by litell at laste grewe to a iuste  
perfectiō: so this detestable priuy robbery  
from a few and Deceytfull rules is in few  
yeres grown to the body of an arte, and  
hath his perculiar termes, and therof as  
great a multitude applied to it, as hath the  
Gramer or Logicke, or any other of the  
approued scienss, neyther let this seeme  
straunge vnto you, because the thinge is  
not commonly knowen, for this facul-  
tie hath one condition of iugling, that  
yf the sleight be once Discouered made is  
al the market. The firste precepte thereof  
is to be as secret in working, as he that  
keepeth a man company fro London too  
Maydenhead. & makes good there by y  
way, to the ende in the thicket to turne  
his picke vpward, and cast a weauers  
knot on both his thumbs behind him, &  
they to thentent y euer in al companyes  
they may talk familiarly in all apperance  
& yet so couertly in dede, that their pur-  
pose may not bee espied: They call theyr  
worthy arte by a newe found name, cal-  
ling



linge them selues Chetors, and the dice  
 cheters, bozobing the terme frō among  
 our lawers, with whom all such casuals  
 as fall vnto the Lord at the holding his  
 lets, as waifs, straies & such like bee cal-  
 led chetes, & are accustomedly said to bee  
 escheted to the lord's vse. **R.** Trovye the  
 that they haue any affinity with our  
 men of Law. **M.** Neuer with those that  
 be honest, mary with suche as bee ambig-  
 dexters & vse to play on both the hands  
 they haue a great League, so haue they  
 also with all kynde of People, that from  
 a good order of ciuilitie, are fallen and  
 resolved as it were from the hardnesse of  
 vertuous living: to the delycasy and soft-  
 nesse of vncareful ydelnesse, and gainfull  
 Decepte.

For gayne and ease be the only pricks  
 that they shote at. But what righte  
 or honest meanes they myght acquire it,  
 that parte neuer cometh in question a-  
 mong them.

And hereof it riseth that lyke as lawe  
 B. iiii. when

When þ̄ terme is trewly considered, signifieth an ordinance of good men, established for the common wealth, to repress all vicious living: so these Chetors turned þ̄ cat in þ̄ pan, geving to diuerse vile patching wrttes, an honest, and godly titell, calling it by the name of a law. & ycause by a multitude of hateful rules a multitude of drugges and drasse, as it were all good learning, gouerne and rule their ydel bodies, to the destruction of the good laboring people. And this is the cause that diuerse crafty sleights deuised only for guyle, hold by the name of a Lawe, ordained ye wote to maintaine playne dealing. Thus giue they their owne conueruance the name of chetring law, so doo they other termes, as sacking law: high law, fygging law, and such lyke.

R. what meane ye herby, haue ye spoken brood English al this while, & now begin to choke me with miseries, and quaint termes? A No not for that but always ye must consider, þ̄ a carpenter hath many termes



14  
termes famillier inough to his pretensis  
that other folke vnderstand, not at al, &  
so haue the chetors not without greate  
nede (for a falsehood once detected) can ne-  
uer compasse the desired effect: neither is  
it possible to make you grope for bottome  
of their arte, onles I acquaint you with  
some of their termes. Therefore note  
this at the first: that Sickynge Lawe  
signifieth hoedome, Hyghe law, robbe-  
ry, stegginge law, pickpurses crafte.

R. But what is this to the purpose, or  
what haue chetors a do w<sup>th</sup> hoers or the-  
ues. A. As moch as with their very en-  
tere itende, for hold all of one corporation.  
For the first & origynall ground of Che-  
tinge is, a counterfeit countenaunce in all  
things: a studdy to seme to be, & not to be  
in deede. And by cause no great dysceyte  
can be wrought but where spectall trust  
goeth before, therefore the chetor whē he  
pitcheth his hawe to purchase his profit  
enforceth all his wittes to win credite  
& opinion of honesty, and byrighnes.

no ho

who hath a great outward shew of simplicity the y pick purse: or what woman will seeme so feruent in loue as will the common harlot: so as I told you before the foundation of all those sortes of people is nothing els but mere simulation, & beting in hand. And like as they spring all from one roote, so tend, they al to one end, idely to lyue by rape, and rauin, deuouring the frute of othermens labors, al the ods betwene the be in y meane actions, y leade towards the end a final purpose R. I am almost weary of my trade already to heare y out gay gamblers are so strongly allied with theues, and pickpurses But I pray you procede & let me heare what sundry mystes of discreyt they haue to meete all wel together at y close. M. That is more then I promised you at the beginning, & more then I intended to perform at this time, for euery of the kepeth as gret scoles in their own faculty, as y chetors do. And if I should make an open discourse of euery wyynkel they haue to couer and  
wooke



worke Disceit with al, I should speake of  
 mo sundry quaint conuelances, then bee  
 rockes in Milfourd hauen, to defend the  
 ships fro the boisterus rage of weather.  
 But I wil first go forward with that I  
 haue in hand, & by þ way as occasiõ shall  
 serue, so touch the rest þ ye may see their  
 workmanship, as it were a farre of, more  
 then halfe a kenning. The chetoz for the  
 most part neuer recepueth his scholler to  
 whom he wil discouer the secrets of hys  
 arte, but such one as befoze he had from  
 some welth and plenty of things, made  
 so bare, and brought to such misery, that  
 he wil refuse no labor, nor leane no stone  
 vnturned, to pick vp a pennyp vnderneath.  
 And this he doth not, but vpon a great  
 skyll. For like as it is an old Drouerbe  
 and a trew, that hee must nedes goe,  
 whome the Dyuell Dyueth, so is there  
 not such a Dyuell to force a man to an  
 extreme refuge, as is necessity and want,  
 specially wher it hath proceeded of abun-  
 dance.

Therefore

Therefore the chetoz vsing necessitie for a  
great part of perswasion, when he hath  
sucked this neddy companion so dry that  
there remaineth no hope too presse any  
drop of further gayne from him, taketh  
some occasion to shew him a glimpse of his  
faculty, and if happely he fynd him egle  
eyed, & diligent to marke, auone shapith  
him in such a fashio, as that he wil raise  
a new gayne by him, and with all some-  
what releue his vrgent pouerty. Then  
walking asyde intoo some solitarie place  
he maketh the first waye to his purpose  
after this, or the like maner. I am sure  
it is not yet oute of youre remeinbrance  
how late it is since yee firste fell into my  
company, how great losse ye had at play  
befoze we cntred in any acquaintance, &  
how litle profit redounded vnto me, sing  
ye first haunted my house, neither can ye  
forget on the other syde, how frendly I  
haue enterteyned you in euery condition  
making my house, my Seruautes, my  
Horses, myne apparel, and other things  
what



whatsoever I had, rather cominō to vs  
both the private to my selfe. And now I  
perceue that of a youthfull wantones &  
as it were a childish oversight, ye haue so  
deely brought your self (vntwaies to me)  
so far vnder the hatches, and are shaken  
with laith dispence y<sup>e</sup> ye cannot find the  
way to rise again, and beare any sape a-  
mong men as heretofore you haue done,  
which thing whyles I deeply consider  
with my self, I can not but lament much  
poure neglygence, and more the harme  
that islike to ensu vpon it: for first your  
friendes beeing as I haue hard many  
in number, and all of worship, shall con-  
ceue such inward greef of your vntyrif-  
tines, that not one will vouchsafe a gen-  
tyll playster to quench the malice of this  
frettinge corosie, that penury hath ap-  
plied. And I againe bycause my happe  
was to haue you in my house, and too  
gaine a litle of other mens leauings, shal  
be counted the cause of your vndoing, &  
shaundered for taking a fewe fethers out  
of

of þ̄ nest whē other had stolen the birds  
alredi, for which causes, & specially to help  
you to maintain your self like a gēticman  
as hitherto of your self ye haue bin able.  
I can be contēt to put you in a good way  
so as treading the steps þ̄ I shal appoint  
you, neither shal ye neede to run to your  
frendes for succor, & al men shal be glad to  
vse you for a companion. But wist I ȳ I  
shuld find you crafting w̄ me in any point  
& bold of þ̄ fidelitty, & secretnes (some spar  
ks wherof I haue noted in your nature)  
assure your selfe, ȳ I would neuer make  
you priuy to þ̄ matter, but giue you ouer  
to your own prouision, perchance to end  
your life w̄ infamy & wretchednes. The  
yong man ȳ lately flowed in plenty & plea  
sures, & now was pinched to þ̄ quick w̄  
lack of al things, humbled himself anone  
to be wholy at his deuocion, & gaue him  
a thousand thanks for his great kind  
nes. Thē forth goeth þ̄ chetor, and fur  
ther saies: though your experience in the  
world be not so great as mine, yet am I  
sure



Sure ye see þ no man is able to liue an ho-  
 nest man, onles he haue som prync way to  
 help himself wal, moze then the world is  
 witnes of. Think you y noble men could  
 do as they do if in this hard world they  
 shuld maintain so great a port only vpon  
 their rent? Think you y laweiers could  
 bee such purchassers if their pleas were  
 short, & al their iudgements, iustice, & con-  
 science. Suppose ye y offices would be so  
 derely bought, & y biers so sone enriched  
 if thei couēd not pillage an honest point  
 of purchase. Could marchaūts wout lies  
 false making their wares, & selling them  
 by a croked light to Deccue y chapinā in  
 the thred or colour grow so sone rich, & to  
 a barōs possessiōs, & make al their poste-  
 rity gētlemeñ? What will ye moze who so  
 hath not some ankerward way to helpe  
 himself, but soloweth hys nose (as they say  
 alwaits straight forward) may wel hold  
 vp y head for a yere or ii. but y iii. he must  
 nedes sink & gather y wind into beggers  
 hauen. Therfore mine aduise shalbe y re-  
 bate

beate al your wiffes, & spare not to breke  
your braining alwaig, to saue and help one  
Your acquaintaunce I know is great, a-  
monges your coutry men, such as be rich  
and ful of monep, neuerthelesse moze sim-  
ple then that they know what good may  
be done in play, and better it is that eche  
man of the, smart a little, then you to liue  
in lack. Therfoze seke them out besely at  
their lodginges: but alwaig beate them  
in hand that ye met the by chaunce, then  
wil it not be hard to call them hyther to  
take part of a supper, and hauinge them  
once within the house dozes dout ye not  
but they shal haue a blow at one pastime  
oz other, that shal lighten their pursis  
heweward, my selfe wil lend you money  
to kepe the copany, & neuerthelesse make  
you pattaker of y gain, & to y end ye shal  
not bee ignozant by what meanes I wil  
copasse the matter, come on go we vnto  
my closet, & I shal giue you a lesso worth  
y lernyng, The bringeth he forth a gret  
box w Dice, & first teacheth him to know  
a langgref



**A** lagret. **R.** a gods name what stuf is it?  
**I** haue often hard men talk of false Dice,  
but **I** neyer yet heard so dainty a name  
giuen them. **Q.** so much the soner may ye  
be deceued, but suffer me a while & bieke  
not my talk, & **I** shal paint you anō a pro-  
per kind of pouling. lo here saith the che-  
tor to this yong Nouiste, a well sauored  
die that semeth good & square: yet is the  
sozbed longer on the cater and tray, then  
any other way, and therfore holdeth the  
name of a lagret, such be also called bard  
cater tres, bicause commonly the longer  
end will of his owne sway draw down-  
wards, and turne vp to the eye lise sinke,  
Deuis oz ace, the pꝛincipall vse of them is  
at Nouē quinque. So long as a paier of  
bard quater tres be walking on the boꝝd,  
so long can ye cast neither v. noꝝ. ix. onles  
it be by a great mischance that the rough-  
nes of the boꝝd, oz some other stay, force  
them to stay and run against their kind.  
For without quater trey, ye wot that, v.  
noꝝ. x. can neuer fall. **R.** By this reason

C.i.

be

he that hath the first dice is like alwaies  
to strip, & robbe all the table aboute: **M.**  
Trew it is, wer ther not another help, &  
for y purpose aned man is at hand, called  
a flat cater tre, & none other nūbre. The  
grannting that tre oz quater be alwaies  
one vpon the one die, if ther is no chaūce  
vpō the other die but may serue to make  
v, oz ix. & so cast forth & lose all, therefore  
(sayth y maister) marke well your flat &  
lerne to know him surely whē he rūneth  
on y bord, the whyles he is abrode, ye for  
beare to cast at much, & keping thys rule to  
auoyd suspicion, bicause I am known  
for a plaier, yee shal see me bring al y gain  
into your handg **R.** But what shift haue  
they to bring the flat in & out: **M.** A ioly  
fine shift y properly is called fopsting, &  
it is nothing els but a sleight to carpease  
ly within the hand, as oftē as the foister  
list. So y when either he oz his partener  
shall cast y dice, the flat comes not abrod,  
til he haue made a great hande, and won  
as much as him list. Otherwise the flat  
is



is ever on onles at febo times y of purpose  
 he suffer the scly soules to cast in a hand  
 or ii. to giue them courage too continue  
 ther play and liue in hope of winning. R  
 This gere seemeth very straung vnto me,  
 & it sinketh not yet into my brain, how a  
 man might carry so many Dice in one had  
 & chop them & chaunge them so often & y  
 thing not espied: M. so jugglers couelace  
 seemeth to excede the compasse of reason  
 til ye know the feat. But what is it that  
 laboz ouercōmeth not? And trew it is, to  
 foyst finely, & redily, & w the same hand to  
 tel moneyp, to & fro is a thing hardly lear-  
 ned, & asketh a bold sprite, & long experi-  
 ence though it be one of y first be lerned.  
 But to return to the purpose, if happely  
 this young scholler haue not so redy and  
 so skilful an eye, to deserue the flat at eue-  
 ry time that hee is foysted in (for vse ma-  
 keth mastery, aswell in this as in other  
 thinges) then partely too helpe this ig-  
 norauce withall, and partly too teache  
 the younge Cocke to crowe, all after the

C.ii.

Che.

chefeors kind, the old cole instructeth the  
yong in the termes of his arte after this  
maner. Ye knowe that this outrageous  
swering and quarelling that some vse in  
play, giueth occasion to many to forbear,  
that els would aduenture much mony at  
it, for this we haue a deuise among vs  
rather we relent & giue place to a wrong,  
then we wold cause the play, by stryfe to  
cause any company to break, neither haue  
we any othes in vse but lightly these: of  
honesty, of truth, by salt, Martine, which  
when wee vse them affirmatiuely, wee  
meane alwayes directly the contrary. As  
for example, if haply I say vnto you when  
the dice cometh to your hands of hone  
or cast at all, my meaning is that ye shal  
cast at the boord or els at very little. If  
when a thing is offered in gage I sweare  
by saint Martine I thinke it fine golde,  
then meane I the contrary, that it is but  
copper. And like as it is a gentle and old  
prouerbe, Let losers haue their wordes:  
so by the way take forth this lesson, euer  
to



to the gentleness to þe silly soles, & crepe  
 if ye can into their very bosoms. For hard-  
 der it is to hold them when ye haue the,  
 the for the first time to take the vp. For  
 this yong wits bee so light, & so waue-  
 ring, & it requirerh great trauel, to make  
 the alwaies daunce after one pipe. But too  
 folow þe we haue in hand bee they yong  
 be they old, that fauleth into our laps, &  
 be ignorant of our arte, we call them all  
 by the name of a cosin, as men that wee  
 make as much of, as if they were of our  
 kinne in dede the grettest wisdom of our  
 faculty resteth in this point, Dyligently  
 to foresee to make the cosin sweat, þe is to  
 haue a wil to kepe play, & cōpany, and al-  
 waies to beware that we cause him not  
 smoke, least that hauing any fele or sauor  
 of gyle intendid agaynst hym, he slyppe  
 the colloz as it were a hound, & make vs  
 of for euer. And whensoever ye take vp  
 a cosin, be suer as nere as ye can to knowe  
 we afozehand what store of byt he hath  
 in his buy, that is what mony he hath in

C.iii.

his

his purse, & whether it bee in great cogs  
oz in small, that is gold oz siluer, and at  
what game he wil sonest stoupe that we  
may fede him w<sup>th</sup> his owne huinoz & haue  
coules redy for him. For thousands ther-  
bee, that wil not play a grote at nouen &  
yet wil lose a hūdyed pouūd at y<sup>e</sup> hasard, &  
he y<sup>e</sup> wil not stoupe a dodkin at y<sup>e</sup> dice, per  
chaunce at cardes wil spend Gods cope,  
therfoze they must be p<sup>ro</sup>uided for euery  
way. Generally your fine chets though  
they be good, made both in y<sup>e</sup> kings bēch  
& in y<sup>e</sup> marshallsea, yet Bird in Holburn is  
the finest woorkman, acquaint your self w<sup>th</sup>  
him, and let him make you a bale oz ii. of  
squaters of sundry sisis, some lesse, some  
more, to thzow into y<sup>e</sup> first play, til ye per  
celue what your cōpany is. Then haue in  
a redines to be roisted in whē time shal-  
be, your fine chetes of all sozts, be sure to  
haue in stoze of such as these be. A bale of  
bard sink Deulsis & flat six Deulsis, a bale of  
bard xi. easis, & flat vi. easis: a bale of bard  
quater tres, & flat quater tres. The ad-  
uantage



uantage wherof is al on y<sup>e</sup> one side, & cō-  
 sisteth in the forging. Þ<sup>r</sup>ouide also a bale  
 o<sup>r</sup>.ii. of fullans for they haue greate vse  
 at the hasard, and though they be square  
 outward. Yet being within at the corner  
 with lead, o<sup>r</sup> other pōdozus matter stop-  
 ped, minister as great an aduantage as  
 any of the rest. þe must also be furnished  
 with high mē, & low mē for a inūchāce, &  
 for passage. Yea & a long die for euen and  
 odd, is good to strike a small stroke with  
 al for a crown o<sup>r</sup>.ii. o<sup>r</sup> the price of a diner  
 As for Swords and bristle Dice be now to  
 groue a p<sup>r</sup>acise to be put in vse, light gra-  
 uers there be, demies, cōtraryes & of all  
 sortes, forged cleane a gainst the appa-  
 raunt vantage. which haue speciall, and  
 sūdy<sup>r</sup> vles. But it is inough at this time  
 to put you in a remeinbrance what toles  
 yee must prepare too make you a worke-  
 man. Hereafter at moze leasure I shall in-  
 structe you of the seuerall vles of them  
 al, and in the mean season take with you  
 also this lesson, that, when fine squarers

C.iii.

onely

only be stirring, ther rests a great helpe in  
cogging, that is when the vndermost dy  
standeth dead by the weighty fall of his  
fellow, so that if vi. be my chaunce, and x.  
yours, graunt that vpon the die I cogge  
and keepe alway an ace, Deuce, or tray, I  
may perhaps sone cast vi. but neuer x. and  
there be diuers kindes of cogging, but of  
all other the spanishe cogge bears the bel,  
it seldome rayseth any smoke. Gramercy  
sayeth the scholer, and now thinketh he  
himself so ripely instructed, that though  
he be not yet able to beate others, yet he  
supposeth himselfe sufficiently armed a-  
gainst al falshood that might be wrought  
to bringe him to an afterdeale, and lyttle  
seeth he the while how many other ends  
remain, how many points ther be in slip-  
pery chetors science, that he shall not yet  
be skilfull inough to tagge in their kind,  
perchaunce in iiii. or. v. peres practise. 13.  
Why haue they any deeper reaches to lift  
a man out of his saddel, and ridde him of  
his money, then ye haue opened already?



**M.** Alas this is but a warning, and as it  
 were the shaking of a rod to a young boye,  
 too feare him from places of perill. All  
 that I haue told you yit or that I haue  
 minded to tell you, greeth not too the  
 purpose, too make you skilfull in chetors  
 occupacion. For as sone would I teach  
 you the next way to Tyburn, as to learn  
 you the practise of it: only my mening is  
 to make you see as farre into it, as shuld  
 a cobbler into a tanners facultie, to knowe  
 whether his lether be wel lyquored, and  
 well & workmanly drest or not. And like  
 as I wold not with a cobbler a currier, lest  
 two sundry occupatiōs rūning together  
 into one, might perhaps make a leaved  
 London medley in our shoes, the one b-  
 sing falshod in working, the other facing  
 and lying in uttering. So seeke I to  
 auoyd, that ye should no both be a cour-  
 tier (in whome a lyttle honest moderate  
 play is tollerable) and withall a Chetor,  
 that with all honesty hath made an un-  
 defensible dozmant Despance. For even  
 this

This new nurtured nonis (not withstan-  
ding hee is receiued into the Colledge of  
these Dubble Dealers, & is become so good  
a scoller that he knoweth redily his flats  
and barris, and hath bin snapper with y  
old cole. at. ii. oz. iii. Deepe strokes, pea and  
though he haue learned to verse, and lay  
in the reason well fauoredly to make the  
cosin stoupe, al the cogges in his buy) yet  
if he once wax slow in seeking out cosins,  
and be proud of his new thrist, & so good-  
ly a passage to recouer his olde losses, the  
knappe of the case, the goodman of the  
house, calleth secretly vnto him the third  
persō for the most part a man that might  
be warden of his cōpany, & talketh with  
him after this maner. Here is a younge  
man in my house, if ye knowe him, that  
hath bene one of the sweetest cosins althe,  
so long as he was able to make a grote,  
nowe at the laste I wote not howe hee  
came by it, but he hath gotten some kno-  
ledge and talkes of a grcate deale more  
then he can in dede. Wary a langret hee  
knoweth



knoweth metely wel and þ is al his skill.  
 I made much of him all this month by  
 cause he hath great acquaintance of men  
 of the countr, and specially the clothe  
 men of the west partes, and at the begin-  
 ning would euery day fill the case with so-  
 ly fat cosins, and albeit he had no know-  
 ledge too worke any scate him selfe, yet  
 did I vse him alwaies honestly, and gaue  
 him his whole snappe, too the end hee  
 should be painfull and dilygent too take  
 the cosyns vp, and bringe them to the  
 blow. Now wahren is he so proud of hys  
 gain bicause he hath gotten a new chaine  
 fpet n: w, apparell, and some store of by-  
 te, that I can not gette him once out of  
 the doze, to go about any thing. Take  
 some paynes your self (sayth he) a bring  
 some of your owne Cosins home or els  
 set al alone for me. Thus if ye see that no-  
 thing marres him, but that he is to fat,  
 & might we make him once leane again  
 as he was within this month, the Guild  
 we see the hungry hozson trudge.

There

Ther wold not be stirring a cosin in any  
quarter but he wold wind him straight.  
Therefore come you in anone like a strai-  
ger & he shal see him take you vp roundly.  
If yee lacke contraries to crossebite him  
with all, I shall lend you a payre of the  
same sile that his chetes be. R. Is ther  
no more fydelity amonge them can they  
not be content one false knaue to be true  
to his felow, though they conspire to rob  
al other men: D. Nothing lesse Did not  
I warne you in the beginninge that the  
end of the sciēce is mere Disceyt, & wou-  
ld ye haue themselves against their kynde,  
to work contrary to their professiō. Nay  
they be euer so like themselves, that whē  
all other Deceytes fayle, looke which of  
them in play gettēs any store of money  
into his hands, he wyll euery sote as he  
draweth a hand, be fygging more oz les  
and rather then fayle craime it & hyde it  
in his hole, to make his gaine greatest.  
Then when they falle to the diuysion of  
the gayn, & the money that þe cosin hath  
lost



24  
lost is not soth cōming, nor will be cōles-  
sed amōg thē. It is a world to here what  
rule they make, & how the one imbradeth  
þ other with dishonesty, as if ther were  
some honestie to be found amōg thē. What  
ould I thē speke of swearing & flaring  
wer they alwaies as liberal of almes, as  
they bee of othes; I had rather bring a  
bigger to haue þ reward of a cheter, thē  
to þ best almes knights roome & þ king  
giues at wyndser. But these floures ne-  
uer fal but in secret cōsels win theselues  
& then peraduenture þ stronger part will  
strip þ weaker out of his clothes rather  
then he shuld flocke away with þ suite,  
& make thē louts to labour for his luter.  
R. Then is it but foly to recouer my los-  
sis in pōder company, & if ther can not be  
one faithful couple found in the hole band  
how might I hope þ am but a straūger  
to win an vnfaigned friend amōges them.  
M. As for in that case neuer speke more of  
the matter, & be as sure as ye are of your  
Creede, & al the frēdly entertainemēt ye  
haue

hane at your lodging is for no other end  
but for to perswade you to play, & bring  
you to losse, nether was it any better the  
falschod in felowship when the goodman  
got you to be half, and seemed unwilling  
ly to lose both your monies. R. By these  
meanes other must I bitterly forbear to  
hazard any thing a y Dice, or live in doubt  
& suspensio of my friend, whēsoever I fall  
to play. M. No question therof, for y con-  
tagion of chetinge is now so vntuesall y  
they swarme in every quarter, & therfore  
ye cannot be in safety from Deceit, onles ye  
shun y company of hazarders, as a man  
would fle a scorpio. R. The am I suffici-  
ently lessoned for the purpose, but bicause  
at the first our talke matched Dice and  
cardes toogether like a couple of frendes  
that draw both in a yoke, I pray you is  
ther as much crafte at cardes as ye haue  
reherced at the Dice. M. Altogether, I  
would not giue a point to chuse, they haue  
such a sleight in sortinge, and shufflinge  
of the Cardes, that playe at what game  
pee



ye will al is lost afore hand. If. it. be con-  
 federated to begyle the thirde, the thing  
 is compassed with the more ease, then if  
 one be but aloue, yet at ther many waies  
 to Deceiue. Prinsero now as it hath most  
 vse in court, so is there most Disceyt in it,  
 some play vppon the pꝛicke, some pinch  
 the cards pꝛiuily with their nayls, some  
 turue bp the corners, some mark them w  
 fine spots of inke One fine trick brought  
 in a spaniard, a finer thē this innēted an  
 Italian, & wan much money w it by our  
 Doctours, & yet at the last they wer both  
 ouerreched by newe sleighytes deuysed  
 here at home. At trump, saint, & such o-  
 ther like, cutting at y neck is a great van-  
 tage, so is cutting bp a buin card (finely)  
 vnder & ouer, stealing the stocke of the  
 Decarded cards if there bꝛode lawes be  
 forced aforehand. At Decoy, they drawe  
 easily. xx. handes together, & play al vpo  
 assurance when to win or lose. Other  
 helps I haue hard of besides, as to set y  
 cosin vpon y bench with a great looking  
 glasse

glasse behinde him on the wall, wherin  
the chetoz might alwaig see what cards  
were in his hand. Sointimes they work  
by signes made by some of the lokers on.  
Wherefore me thynkes this amonge the  
rest proceded of a fine inuencion. A gam-  
bler after he had bin oftentimes bitten a-  
mong y chetozs, & after much losse, grew  
very suspicious in his play, that he could  
not suffer ani of the sitters by to be priuy  
to his game: for this the chetozs deuised  
a new shift. A woman should sit sowing  
besides him, & by the shift or slow draw-  
ing hit needell, giue a token to the chetoz  
what was the cosins game, so that a few  
examples in sted of infinit that might be  
rehearsed, this one vniuersall conclusion  
may be gathered, that giue you to play, &  
yeld your self to losse. R. I feele well that  
if a man happen to put his money in ha-  
sarde, the ods is great that he shall rise a  
loser, but many men are so continent of  
their hands that nothing can cause them  
to put ought in aduenture: & some again  
be



unskillful, & lack of running forceth them  
to forbear. **D.** I graunt you wel both.  
But neuertheles I neuer yet saw man so  
hard to bee banquished but they would  
make him stoupe, at one law or other.

And for that purpose their first trauel is  
after & they haue take by & cosin & made  
him somewhat sweet, to seeke by al means  
they can to vnderstand his nature, and  
wherunto hee is inclined. If they find &  
he taketh pleasure in & cōpany of femals,  
then seeke they to strike him at & lacking  
law. And take this alwaies for a maxime  
& al the bands in a cōtre be of & chetors  
familiar acquaintance. Therfore it shal  
not be hard at al times to prouid for this  
amorous knight, a lewed lecherous lady,  
to kepe him louing cōpany. The sal they  
to banketing, to minstrels, masking, and  
much is the cost that the sly cosin shal be  
at in Jewels, apparell and otherwise: he  
shal not ones get a graūt to haue scarfly  
a licke at this dainty ladys lappes. And  
euer among she layeth in this reason.

**D. i.**

**For**

For his sake to put his xx. or. xl. crowns  
in aduerture ye wot not (saith she) what  
may be a womans lucke. If he re. use it,  
lord how unkindly she taketh the water  
it cannot be reco.iled. w. lesse then a gown  
or a kirtle of sylk, which comenly is a re-  
ward vnto hir by knap of the case, and þ  
cut throttes his complites. to whom the  
matter is put in daying. Ye and the more  
is if haply they perceiue. þ he esteemed not  
brousid ware, but is enamo.ored w. virgi-  
nitye, they haue a fine cast win an houres  
warning, to make John splurpin as  
good a mayde, as if she had neuer come  
at newes nor openid to any man hir quis-  
uer. The mistery thereof ye all vnder-  
stande by this my tale which I my selfe  
saue put in experience. A young roister-  
ly gentylman desyring a mayden make  
to content his wanton lust, resorted to a  
baude, and promised her good wages to  
prouide him a maide against þ next day  
he declared vnto hir. þ he toke more ple-  
sure in virginitye, then beuty, but if both  
came



came together & pleasure was much the  
 more thankfull, & her reward shuld be &  
 better. This mother baud undertoke to  
 serue his turne according to his desire, &  
 hauing at home a well paynted, manerly  
 harlot as good a maid as fletchers mare  
 that bare thre great soles, went in the  
 morning to the Apothecaries for halfe a  
 pynt of swete water & cōmonly is called  
 Surfulyng water, or Clynkerdeuice, &  
 on the way homeward turned into a no-  
 ble mans house to visite his coke, an old  
 acquaintance of hirs: vnneth had she set  
 hir fete within the kitchin, & set Downe  
 hir glasse the more handsomely to warme  
 hir afore the raſige, but anon the Coke  
 had taken hir in his armes, and whyles  
 they wraſtled more for maners sake of &  
 light, then for any squirely besines, had  
 she bene behinde & Doze. Down fel & glas  
 & spilt was & water, out alas & & womā  
 quiet your selfe qd & coke, let vs go into &  
 buttry to brekefast, & I will by & a newe  
 glas, & pay for & silling. Away they wēt  
 D. ii.                      oute

out of the kitchen, & the boye that turned  
a couple of spits deliting with the lauoꝝ  
of the water, let first one spite stand & af-  
ter another alwayes w one hande taking  
vp the water as it dropped fro þ boꝝd by  
him, & washed his eyes, his mouth, & all  
his face withall. Sone after þ this likoꝝ  
was with the heat of þ fier dꝛied, & soked  
vp in the boies face, Down came the coke  
again into þ kitchen, & finding the bꝛeste  
of the capon all burnt, foꝝ lacke of tur-  
ning, caught vp a great basting stycke to  
beate the turnspytte, & happie casting a  
sower loke vpon him, espied the boyes  
mouth & eyes dꝛawen so togither & closid  
that nether had he left an eye to loke w  
all, & scarce mꝑght ye turne yone lyttell  
fynger in his mouth. The cooke abashed  
with the soden chance, ranne about the  
house hal out of his witt, and cried þ kit-  
chē boy is takē, he cā nether se noꝝ speke,  
& so the poꝝe boy w his starched face co-  
tinuewed moꝝe then halfe an houre a wo-  
dering stocke to all the house, tyl a man  
of



of experience, bad bath his face w<sup>th</sup> hot fat  
 beere broth, wherby forth w<sup>th</sup> he was resto  
 red to as wide a mouth, & as open eyes as  
 he had before. R. A good miracle & soone  
 wrought. It maydes be so easy to make  
 no meruel it is we haue such store in Lō.  
 Dō. But forth I pray you with your pur  
 pose, when whoredome hath no place  
 what other shifts haue they to raise ther  
 thrifte vpon M. a. C. mo then I can re  
 herse, but most comenly one of these that  
 folow. If it be winter season when mas  
 king is most in vse, then missing of theyr  
 chept helps, they spare not for cost of the  
 Deter. Therfore first do they hyer in one  
 place or other, a sute of ryghte maskinge  
 aparel, and after inuites diuers gesses to  
 a supper all such as be ther of estimacion  
 to giue the credit by their acquaintance  
 or such as they thinke, will be liberall to  
 hazard some thing in a manurance: by  
 which meanes they assure theselues at y<sup>e</sup>  
 least to haue the supper schot free. Per  
 chaunce to win. xx. li. aboute. And how

D. lii.

so

foeuer the cōmen people esteeme the thing  
I am cleane out of dout y the more halfe  
of your gay maskes in Lōdon at groun-  
did bpō such cheting craftes, and tend on  
ly y pouling, & robbing of the kinges sub-  
iectes. An other ioply wist & for the sub-  
tyle inuenciō and finenes of wit exceedeth  
far al the rest, is the barnardes law.

Which to be exactly practised asketh iiii.  
persōs at the least, eche of them to play a  
lōg seuerall part by him selfe. The firste is  
y taker bp, of a skilful man in all things,  
who hath by lōg traull cunnid w oute y  
boke a. C. resōs to insimate him selfe into  
a mā's acquaintaunce. Talke of matters  
in law, and he hath plenty of casis at his  
fingers ends y he hath sene tried & reuo-  
lid in euery of the kinges courtes. Speke  
of grasping and husbandry no man kno-  
weth mo hires then he, no mā knoweth  
better where to rayse a gapn: & how the  
abusis & ouerture of pricis might bee re-  
dressed. Finally enter into what discorde  
of things they list, were it into a browin  
mans



mans facultie, hee knoweth what gaine  
 they haue for old boots & shoes, & where  
 their gain cometh, yea & it shall escape  
 him hard, but that ere your talk break of  
 he wilbe your cuntry man at least, & per-  
 aduenture either of kinne, or alp, or some  
 soule sit vnto you, if your reach surmount  
 not his too far. In case he bring to passe  
 that ye be glad of his acquaintance, and  
 content with his company, playd is the  
 cheef of his part, and he giueth place to  
 the principall player the barnard, never-  
 thelesse he lightly hath in his company a  
 man of more worship then himself, & hath  
 the countenance of a possessor of land  
 and he is called the verser. And though  
 it be a very hard thing to be a perfite fa-  
 ker vp, and as it were a man vniuersally  
 practised in all accidentes of a mans life,  
 yet doth the Barnard go so farre beyond  
 him in cunning, as doth the suns some-  
 brightnes exceede the glimmering light  
 of the winter sterres. This bodys most  
 comon practise is, to come stübling into  
 D. iiii. your

your company, like some rich farmor of  
the cuntry, a stranger to you al, that had  
bin at some market town there abouts,  
bping and selling, & there tiplede so much  
Walmys, that he had neuer a redy word  
in his mouth, & is so careles for his mo-  
ney that out he threoweth an hundreth  
or.ii. of old aungels vpo the bozdes ende,  
and standyng some what a loose calleth  
for a pot of ale and sayeth: masters I am  
some what bold with you, I pray you be  
not agreid that I Dzinke my Dzinke by  
you: and minister such idel Dzoeken talke,  
that the berser who cousterfeattith the ge-  
tlinan cometh stoutly, and sittes at your  
elbowe, prating you to call him neare, too  
laugh at his folly, betwene the.ii. y mat-  
ter shalbe so woorkmaly coueied & so fine-  
ly arguid, y out coith a pair of old cardes  
wherat y barnarde teacheth y berser a  
newe game, y he supposeth coste him.ii.  
potts of ale for y lerning not past a hour,  
or.ii. before. The first wager is Dzinke, the  
next.ii. pence, or a grote, & lastli to make y  
tale



tale thowte they vse þ matter so þ he that  
 hath. lxxx. yeres of his backe, and neuer  
 played for a grote in his life, cannot re-  
 fuse to be the berseres halfe, & cōsequētlý  
 at one cutting of the Cardes to louse all  
 ther play for, be it an. C. li. and if perhap-  
 pes when the money is lost, the cosin be-  
 gins to smoke and sweare that the Dron-  
 ken knaue shal not get his money so thē  
 standeth the rubber at the doze, and dra-  
 weth his sword, and picketh a quarel to  
 his owne shadow: yf he lacke an osteler,  
 or a tapester, or some other to fall out w  
 al. That whiles the strete & company ga-  
 ther to the fray, as the maner is, the bar-  
 nard steales away w all the stufte, & pic-  
 kes him to one blinde tauerne or other,  
 such as before is appointed among thē,  
 & ther abidith the cōming of his compa-  
 nions to make an equall porcion of the  
 gain, & whēsoeuer these whittes may not  
 take place, thē lede they þ cosin to þ gale  
 of an enterlude, or the beare baytyng at  
 paris gardē, or some other place of throg  
 where

where by fyne fingered fegge bore, a  
grounded disciple of James Ellis, picked  
shalbe his purse, and his money lost in a  
moment, or els they run to the last refuge  
of all, and by a knot of lusty companions  
of the h gh law, not only shake the harm  
lesse body out of all his clothes, but bind  
him, or bob him to bore, that lesse had  
bin his harin to haue stouped low at the  
first, and so to haue stopped their greedy  
mouthes, then to saue himselfe so long,  
and in the end to bee fleeced as bare as a  
new shorne shepe, and perchaunce so farr  
from his freends, that he shalbe forced to  
trip on his ten toes homeward for lacke  
of a hackney to ryde on, and beg for hys  
charges by the way. R. Now speake ye  
indeed of a ready way to thurst but it hath  
an yll favoured successe many times. M.  
I wot what you meane, you thinke they  
come home by Tiburne, or S. Thomas  
of Warrings, and so they do in dede, but  
nothing so sone as a man wold suppose,  
they be but pety figgers, and vnellesoned  
ladg



laddes that haue such redy passage to þ  
gallowes. The old theues go thorow w  
their vsies wel. xx. or. xxx. yeres together  
& be seldome taken, or tainted, specially þ  
figge bodies, y haue a goodly corporaciō  
for the relese. Their craft of all others re-  
quireth most arght, and hath a merue-  
lus plenty of termes & strange language,  
and therefore no man can attayne to bee  
a workinā therat, til he haue had a good  
time of scoling, and by that meanes they  
do not only know eache other well, but  
they be subiecte to an order, suche as the  
elders shal prescribe. No man so sturdy to  
practise his feate but in the place apor-  
ted, nor for any cause once to put his fote  
in an others walke. Some. ii. or. iii. hath  
Pauls church in charge, other hath west  
minister haule in terme tyme. Diuerse  
chepesydē w the flesch and fish wambles,  
some þ borough & bearbayling, some the  
court, & part folow marketts & fayres in  
the country with pedlers footepackes,  
and generally to all places of assembl. y.

Some

Some of them are certainly pointed as  
it were by their wardens to kepe & haue  
with comission but a short while, and  
too enterchaunge their places as order  
shalbe made to auoide suspicion. By oc-  
casion wherof when soeuer any stroke is  
workemanly stricken though it were at  
new castel the rest of y<sup>e</sup> fygge boyes that  
keapes resident in London, come forth  
with prouisiō by whome the worthe  
feate was wrought, & one great prouisiō  
they haue: that is a souerē saluē at all  
times of nede a tresurer thei chuse in some  
blind corner. a trusty secret frende. That  
whēsoeuer ther cometh any Jewels plate,  
or such geate to their share, the present  
sale therof might chaunce to discouer the  
matter, the same els committed into his  
handg in pledge as it wer of money lent,  
& he taketh a bill of sale in default of re-  
payment as if all thinges were done by  
good fayth, and playne dealing. So that  
whensoeuer he shall seeke to make money  
of this gages, at the end of ii. or iii. mo-  
nethes



nethes, if any question arise how he came  
by them he sheweth anone a fayre byll of  
sale for his discharge, fro John a knocke  
or John a stile, a man that neuer was, ne-  
uer shalbe found. And such theft by this  
occasion is euer manerly couered.

An other help they haue that of euery  
purse that is clenly conueyed, a ratable  
porcion is dewly deliuered into the tresu-  
rers hands. to the vse that when soeuer  
by some misaduenture any of them hap-  
pen to be taken, & layd in prison, this com-  
mon stock may serue to satisfie the party  
greued and to make frendes to saue them  
from hanging. Now haue ye a kalender  
as it were to put you in remsembrance of  
the these poyntes & practises of chetynge,  
inough I suppose to serue for a warning  
that ye withdraw your self from yonder  
costly company, wherin if my experience  
may serue to giue you occasion to eschew  
such euils, I shalbe glad of this our hap-  
py meeting. R. Yes doubt ye not there-  
of but that this talke haue wrought  
alredy

alredy such effectes in me that though I  
lue a. c. veres. I shall not lightly fall into  
the chetors snares. But because ye spake  
of the principal pointes, wherby I con-  
ceive that yet some final sparkes remaine  
vntouched, I pray you put mee oute of  
doubt therof, and then on gods name ye  
shal gladly departe, with as many than-  
kes as if ye had disbursed a large sum of  
mony for redemption of my land, & saued  
it from selling. For had not forewarnyng  
come, the marchaunt and I muste with  
in fewe dayes haue coped together, as  
did my bedfelow but now the last weke,  
whose lossis I prtie so muche the more,  
as that now I vnderstand by what che-  
tory it was woon. ¶ The feat of losyng  
is easely learned, & as I told you in y<sup>e</sup> be-  
gynning y<sup>e</sup> the chetors beate & besp their  
braynes, only about fraude & subtyltie,  
so can it not be chosen but geue them sel-  
ues ouer al to that purpose, & must every  
day forge out one newe poynt of knauety  
or other, to deceyue the simple wall: as of  
late



late I knew a young gentleman so witty  
 in his doings & neither by Dice or cardes  
 nor by Damosels of Dalliance, nor of the  
 waies afore rehearsed, could be made scope  
 one penny out of his purse. For this the  
 chetor consulted with the lewd lady in  
 this case deuysed. That she should dally  
 with the gentleman, & playing with his  
 chaine should find the meane to kepe it a  
 whyle, till they might fyg a lynke or it,  
 to make a lyke by. Done it was anone,  
 & within few dayes after another made  
 of copper equall in length to that. At the  
 gentlemans next returning to the house,  
 the Damoselles dallied so long with the  
 chaine, sometyme putting it about her  
 necke, and sometymes about his, that in  
 the end she fopsted the copper chayne in  
 the others place, and thereby robbed him  
 of better then xl £. This and the like  
 Wits I forbere to remember. Somer be-  
 cause the Deceit resteth not in any slyght  
 practyse at Dice, and cardes, neuertheless  
 bycause chetors were the first inuentors

as well of this as of all other falshod in  
felowship that now dayely is put in vse  
at all maner of games, as when one man  
lost not many yeares ago an C.li. lande  
at shooting, by occasion that some that  
shot with him on his side, were boty fe-  
lowes againste him, another was rpd of  
vi. C.li. at the tennis in a weeke, by the  
fraud of his stopper. We think they can-  
not bee better rewarded then sent home  
to the place they came fro.

And since chetors were the first authors  
therof, let them also bear the blame. And  
having disclosed vnto you as briefly as

I can the pꝛincipall practises of the  
chetors crafty facultie, & other  
workemen of their alliance,

I wyl byd you farewell,  
for this tyme.

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